

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 245279
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-12
IO-14 /076 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:PGARLAND:SM X28852
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST
-----089787 131815Z /50

R 122223Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA

UNCLAS STATE 245279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ET, SO, SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING OF OCTOBER 11

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OCTOBER 11 PRESS BRIEFING DEAL-
ING WITH ALLEGED US PROPOSAL FOR PLEBISCITE AND A CEASE-
FIRE IN THE OGADEN:

Q. HODDING, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A. YES.

Q. ON FRIDAY, YOUR SPOKESMAN, JOHN TRATTNER, SAID, "THERE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 245279

IS NO TRUTH TO THE REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE
A PROPOSAL FOR A PLEBISCITE AND A CEASE-FIRE IN THE OGA-
DEN BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. DO YOU NOW HAVE INFOR-
MATION THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG DID IN FACT MAKE SUCH A
SUGGESTION TO THE SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER?

A. YES. I THINK SO LONG AS WE WATCH THE PHRASEOLOGY,

I'M PREPARED TO GO BOTH WAYS WITH YOU. THE FIRST IS THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROPOSALS MADE BY THE UNITED STATES ON THE QUESTION OF A SOLUTION, PER SE, IN WHICH WE WOULD TAKE PART, OR SPECIFICALLY A PROPOSAL ON A REFERENDUM. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROPOSAL. I'LL GET TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOO. THERE HAVE, OBVIOUSLY, BEEN DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION, BUT IT IS OUR POSITION THAT THIS IS A SERIOUS SITUATION, AND WE FEEL THAT THE PROPER PLACE FOR RESOLUTION IS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. WE THINK A SETTLEMENT IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THAT ORGANIZATION AND NOT POWERS THAT LIE OUTSIDE THE CONTINENT.

THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED WITH A NUMBER OF HIS AFRICAN COUNTERPARTS THE OGADEN SITUATION, SINCE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT KIND OF A MATTER IN WHICH AFRICANS ARE FIGHTING AFRICANS, AND WE DID WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEIR VIEWS WERE ON IT, ON HOW IT BEST COULD BE RESOLVED. TO REPEAT, WE DID NOT PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR A REFERENDUM. IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE OGADEN -- AND THIS HAPPENED TO OCCUR AT A LUNCH -- AMBASSADOR YOUNG MENTIONED IN PASSING, IN WHAT WAS A CONVERSATION IN A LARGER GROUP, THE POSSIBILITY OF A REFERENDUM AS ONE APPROACH TO THAT CRISIS. IT WAS NOT MEANT AS A FORMAL SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. THE AMBASSADOR SHARES THE GENERAL VIEW OF OUR GOVERNMENT THAT THE OAU SHOULD BE THE PROPER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 245279

AGENCY FOR RESOLVING THAT QUESTION.

Q. I THINK MAYBE YOU CAN GO ONE MORE STEP, THOUGH. ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS FLOATED THE IDEA THAT IF THE OAU CANNOT HANDLE IT, THERE SHOULD BE SOME PLEBISCITE THAT WE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN --

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING --

Q. --AS A FALLBACK? THE PREFERENCE, AS I UNDERSTAND, IS THE OAU, BUT THAT IS NOT THE ONLY SOLUTION WE HAVE DISCUSSED?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING SINCE IT IS WRITTEN SPECIFICALLY HERE, THAT NEITHER THE SECRETARY NOR ANY OF THE AFRICANS EITHER FOREIGN MINISTERS OR OTHERS WITH WHOM HE DISCUSSED THE GENERAL SITUATION, MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF A REFERENDUM.

Q. AND --

A. AND IN THAT CASE, I SIMPLY WOULD HAVE TO SAY IT IS

NOT ON OUR AGENDA AS A PROPOSAL. I KNOW NO MORE ABOUT THE GENERAL REACTION TO EVEN THE IDEA THAN YOU DO, BUT IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS TO BE A NON-STARTER.

Q. ALL RIGHT. SO IT WAS TABLE TALK, IT WAS JUST CONVERSATION ON YOUNG'S PART?

A. THAT'S RIGHT. AS I UNDERSTAND, IT WAS RAISED IN DISCUSSION AT THE TABLE OR AT THE MEETING, AS I RECALL, OF THE -- WHICH LUNCH WAS THAT?

Q. THE ARAB LEAGUE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 245279

A. THE ARAB LEAGUE, YES.
VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 245279
ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: AF/E: JWHITING: AB

APPROVED BY: AF/E: JWHITING

-----052074 160837Z /12

R 160810Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STATE 245279

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 245279 ACTION ADDIS ABABA MOGADISCIO KHARTOUM
DKIBOUTI NAIROBI CAIRO JIDDA SANA OCT 12.

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 245279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ET, SO, SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING OF OCTOBER 11

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OCTOBER 11 PRESS BRIEFING DEAL-
ING WITH ALLEGED US PROPOSAL FOR PLEBISCITE AND A CEASE-
FIRE IN THE OGADEN:

Q. HODDING, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A. YES.

Q. ON FRIDAY, YOUR SPOKESMAN, JOHN TRATTNER, SAID, "THERE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 245279

IS NO TRUTH TO THE REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE
A PROPOSAL FOR A PLEBISCITE AND A CEASE-FIRE IN THE OGA-
DEN BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. DO YOU NOW HAVE INFOR-
MATION THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG DID IN FACT MAKE SUCH A
SUGGESTION TO THE SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER?

A. YES. I THINK SO LONG AS WE WATCH THE PHRASEOLOGY,
I'M PREPARED TO GO BOTH WAYS WITH YOU. THE FIRST IS THAT
THERE HAD BEEN NO PROPOSALS MADE BY THE UNITED STATES
ON THE QUESTION OF A SOLUTION, PER SE, IN WHICH WE WOULD
TAKE PART, OR SPECIFICALLY A PROPOSAL ON A REFERENDUM.
THERE HAS BEEN NO PROPOSAL. I'LL GET TO YOUR QUESTION
ABOUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOO. THERE HAVE, OBVIOUSLY,
BEEN DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE
SITUATION, BUT IT IS OUR POSITION THAT THIS IS A SERIOUS
SITUATION, AND WE FEEL THAT THE PROPER PLACE FOR RESO-
LUTION IS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. WE THINK
A SETTLEMENT IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THAT ORGANIZATION AND
NOT POWERS THAT LIE OUTSIDE THE CONTINENT.

THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED WITH A NUMBER OF HIS AFRICAN
COUNTERPARTS THE OGADEN SITUATION, SINCE WE ARE CON-
CERNED ABOUT THAT KIND OF A MATTER IN WHICH AFRICANS ARE
FIGHTING AFRICANS, AND WE DID WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEIR
VIEWS WERE ON IT, ON HOW IT BEST COULD BE RESOLVED. TO
REPEAT, WE DID NOT PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR A REFERENDUM.
IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE OGADEN -- AND THIS
HAPPENED TO OCCUR AT A LUNCH -- AMBASSADOR YOUNG MENTION-
ED IN PASSING, IN WHAT WAS A CONVERSATION IN A LARGER
GROUP, THE POSSIBILITY OF A REFERENDUM AS ONE APPROACH
TO THAT CRISIS. IT WAS NOT MEANT AS A FORMAL

SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. THE AMBASSADOR SHARES THE GENERAL
VIEW OF OUR GOVERNMENT THAT THE OAU SHOULD BE THE PROPER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 245279

AGENCY FOR RESOLVING THAT QUESTION.

Q. I THINK MAYBE YOU CAN GO ONE MORE STEP, THOUGH.
ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS FLOATED THE IDEA
THAT IF THE OAU CANNOT HANDLE IT, THERE SHOULD BE SOME
PLEBISCITE THAT WE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN --

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING --

Q. --AS A FALLBACK? THE PREFERENCE, AS I UNDERSTAND,
IS THE OAU, BUT THAT IS NOT THE ONLY SOLUTION WE
HAVE DISCUSSED?

A. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING SINCE IT IS WRITTEN SPECIFIC-
ALLY HERE, THAT NEITHER THE SECRETARY NOR ANY OF THE
AFRICANS EITHER FOREIGN MINISTERS OR OTHERS WITH WHOM
HE DISCUSSED THE GENERAL SITUATION, MENTIONED THE
POSSIBILITY OF A REFERENDUM.

Q. AND --

A. AND IN THAT CASE, I SIMPLY WOULD HAVE TO SAY IT IS
NOT ON OUR AGENDA AS A PROPOSAL. I KNOW NO MORE ABOUT
THE GENERAL REACTION TO EVEN THE IDEA THAN YOU DO, BUT IT
IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED BY
BOTH THE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS TO BE A NON-STARTER.

Q. ALL RIGHT. SO IT WAS TABLE TALK, IT WAS JUST
CONVERSATION ON YOUNG'S PART?

A. THAT'S RIGHT. AS I UNDERSTAND, IT WAS RAISED IN
DISCUSSION AT THE TABLE OR AT THE MEETING, AS I RECALL,
OF THE -- WHICH LUNCH WAS THAT?

Q. THE ARAB LEAGUE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 245279

A. THE ARAB LEAGUE, YES.
VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PRESS CONFERENCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE245279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PGARLAND:SM X28852
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770373-1071
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771068/aaaacfw.tel
Line Count: 276
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61188c31-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 944872
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING OF OCTOBER 11 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OCTOBER 11 PRESS BRIEFING DEAL- ING WITH ALLEGED US PROPOSAL FOR PLEBISCITE AND A
TAGS: SOPN, PBOR, ET, SO, US
To: ADDIS ABABA MOGADISCIO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61188c31-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009